BENGALURU, MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 25 | Min 19 | Humidity 89% Generally cloudy sky and rain likely Sensex 58,387 | Nifty 17,397 | Gold 52,080 | Silver 57,900 | Dollar 79.22 | Euro 81.04 | GBP 96.19

'105 class D/E lakes in city unfit for bathing; can be used only for controlled waste disposal, industrial cooling, fisheries and irrigation'

ON THE LAKEFRONT

'But, of 5,884 urban industries, just 4 can't treat effluents'

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

> **"KTCDA is supposed to be a one-point solution to all issues related to lake water quality; it has been shying away from responsibilities**
> – V Ramprasad, Friends of Lakes

Bengaluru's lakes are falling apart — this has been emphasised yet again by the Karnataka Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), in its latest report on the water quality of lakes and tanks in the city.

As per the findings, all the 105 lakes studied by the board have an 'unsatisfactory' water quality index.

Moreover, these waterbodies either belong to class 'D' or class 'E', making them unfit for bathing; they can only be used for 'controlled waste disposal, industrial cooling, propagation of fisheries and irrigation'.

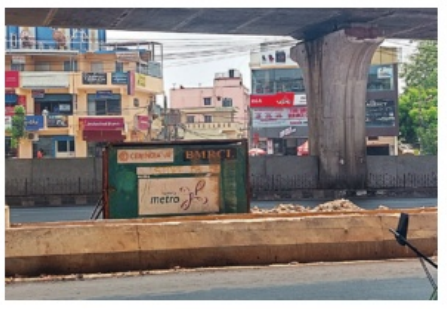
When it comes to the water quality of lakes across Karnataka other than Bengaluru, around 28% of the waterbodies have water quality at satisfactory level.

"The lakes monitored outside

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Stuck in a Metro

'Sometimes road is so congested, a 10 minute-distance takes up to 25-30 minutes to traverse'



| Saumyangi Yadav
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Alongside monsoon misery, Bengalureans are terribly set back by the ever-ongoing Metro construction. On Friday, August 5, a law student was driving past Meenakshi Mall along Bannerghatta Road, when his car got stuck in construction debris.

"I was en route to run a personal errand along Bannerghatta Road. The road was in very bad shape due to continuous rains and ongoing Metro work... I am a careful driver; anyhow, while traversing a muddy stretch, I noticed a big stone lying on the ground ahead. I tried swerving away from it; however, my car got stuck in a position such that it was unable to move forward or backward."

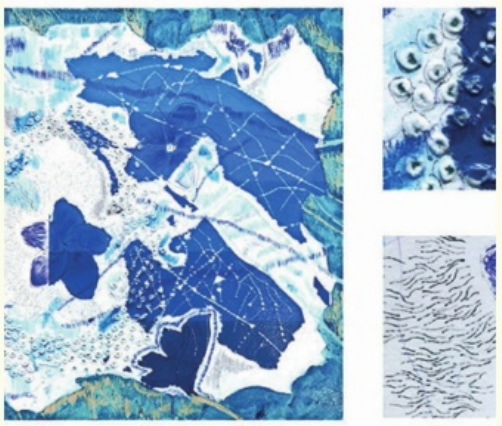
Upon asking for help, a few construction workers came along; however, they were also unable to move the car. "Then it was decided to bring in an earthmover and pull the vehicle out. Thankfully it worked. I was able to get out of the mess. This, however, took almost three hours," the law student added.

The construction of the elevated corridor along Bannerghatta Road is part of the 21-km pink line connecting Kalena Agrahara station (previously named Gottigere) on Bannerghatta Road in the south with Nagawara station on Outer Ring Road in the north.

BMRCL chief PRO told Bangalore Mirror that the deadline for the pink line is in 2024.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Artsy affairs

Artz Houz is celebrating its 8th anniversary with artist Vijay Pichumani. His art depicts parallels between man, humanity and nature.
When: Till August 13; Where: Art Houz
Tickets: Free

02 Let us doodle

Do you ever want to try your hand at doodling but are not sure where to start, well then this might be the event for you. Learn doodling from the very best. **When: August 8-10**
Where: Online; Tickets: Free, Insider.in

03 Open mic Saturdays

Enjoy poetry, music, and comedy all under one roof with great ambience. If you are looking to spend a fun time with friends and family, then this is the event for you. **When: August 13**
Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield
Tickets: Free

Cheela Mela drive gains traction at flower show

Stall upcycles old clothes and stitches more than 300 bags to spread awareness

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One particular stall at the Lalbagh flower show has gained a lot of visitors with queues of people waiting to get their clothes converted into bags.

After being withheld for two years due to the pandemic, the much-loved Lalbagh flower show, inaugurated on August 5, is in full swing. The event 'Cheela Mela' organised by the implementation partner Saahas, a zero waste NGO is aimed to promote the use of cloth bags among market-goers.

The public was encouraged to bring their old clothes and get them stitched into cloth bags by the tailors from self-help groups (SHGs). The two tailors at the stall have stitched over 300 bags. People are bringing their colourful bed sheets, old t-shirts, and jeans to get them upcycled into bags.

Social media helped further the Ngo's cause. "I visit the Lalbagh flower show every year. We saw posts on social media about this stall and decided to get some of our clothes converted to bags. With the ban on plastic, this initiative has come to the rescue of many." said Richa Davis, a visitor.

The initiative is in partnership with the GIZ and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) facility-funded project Circular Waste Solutions. It is an initiative to make Lalbagh an eco-friendly space.

Veerender from SAAHAS said, "The objective was to raise awareness for conserving our environment by reducing the usage of disposable plastics and also to give new shape to people's old clothes, thereby reducing textile waste." They were seen educating the crowd about the ill effects of using single-use plastic on the environment. Many people posted their pictures on social media after they converted their old clothes into bags.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has partnered with GIZ India, a German Development Agency, and Saahas to implement the NAMA Facility project titled 'Circular Waste Solutions' in Bengaluru.

The nodal ministries for the project are the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

The main objective is to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from waste by creating awareness about source segregation and ensuring resource recovery from waste through decentralized processing in the city.

The project is themed on providing support for implementing Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 objectives. The project also aims to build the capacities of officials and sanitation staff and set up or augment the existing processing infrastructure for wet and dry waste.

People came to the stall at the Lalbagh flower show with old bedsheets, t-shirts and jeans to get them upcycled into bags

Take the metro for Lalbagh flower show: BMRCL

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is expecting increased footfall in the coming week as the renowned Lalbagh flower show is back in town after two years.

BMRCL Chief Public Relations Officer BL Yeshwanth Chavan told Bangalore Mirror that in the previous years, BRMCL has always released a notice for the visitors to use public transport while going to the show.

"It has just been two days, so we are waiting to see how the traffic is at the show and how many people are taking the metro. We are expecting an increased footfall in the coming days, especially on the green line of the Namma metro," he said.

The CPRO also said, "Usual thermal checking and patrolling inside the trains will continue to ensure the safety of the passengers from Covid-19 in case of an increased number of commuters attending the flower show."

According to official reports, Lalbagh Botanical Garden officials are expecting 10-15 lakh people to be present throughout the event. Chief PRO of BMRCL told Bangalore Mirror that they will soon be releasing the notice encouraging the use of public transport for the same.

"We are expecting a huge crowd over the coming days as people have been waiting for the show for almost two years and the excitement is high. We have made parking arrangements for the show, but it would be better to make use of public transport as it will be a more convenient and economical option for everyone," said the Deputy Director of the Lalbagh Horticulture Department. More than 3.5 lakh flower pots with over 65 varieties of flowers are on display at the Glass House in Lalbagh Botanical Garden which is open from 7 am to 7 pm. **— Saumyangi Yadav**

Dentistry students clamour for fee equity

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After the National Medical Commission (NMC) directed private deemed universities to comply with the new guidelines for fee regulation, students of dental medicine want the same guidelines to be applicable for NEET MDS seats too.

The guidelines by NMC directs all private colleges to reduce fees for 50 per cent of the total approved seats from the current session and make the fee at par with that of government colleges. "The fee regulation guidelines are mandatory as per NMC Act-2019 and will be applicable for students who will be admitted through NEET-UG 2022 and NEET-PG 2022," the NMC guidelines released in July read.

However, the guidelines do not mention the Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) seats. Dr Shyam Gopal, a member of the All-India Students Dental Association said, "There are lesser number of government seats for MDS course in India, with fewer than 500 seats under All-India quota... Every other medical course is covered under these guidelines, except for MDS,"

The reason why guidelines do not apply to the MDS courses is that there is a different regulatory body for dental education called the Dental Council of India (DCI). "Both NMC and DCI are wings of the health ministry and all the other government guidelines get applied to both the bodies. But for fee regulation, why have the dental colleges been excluded? Both medical and dental colleges have very high fees. We want the same guidelines for dental colleges," Dr Shyam added.

MDS aspirants said that many of them are forced to repeat a year, even with a rank under 1000 because of high fees for semi-government and private colleges. Aashik M, a dental graduate, who has been preparing for NEET MDS, said, "One of my fellow graduates ranked around 550 in NEET MDS two years ago but couldn't afford a seat due to very high fees. There are very limited number of government seats so even if you have a very good rank, you have to pay a high amount of fee to get a seat in colleges."

In the absence of any fee regulatory guidelines from the central government and the DCI, the responsibility falls on the state governments which also leads to varying fee structures across different states.

Larger picture: Flood zones mapped

Group of techies create crowd-sourced platform to map all flood-prone areas in city

A man tries to navigate the flooded road of a gated community on Sarjapura Road, which was completely cut off from outside world after recent rain

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To find a solution to the never-ending flooding problem in the city, a group of techies have started a crowd-sourcing platform to map all the flood-prone areas here. Often when it rains in the city, reports of flooding emerge from all corners of the city. The reports come from scattered locations, failing to create a visualisation of the overall picture. And so implementation of solutions happens in silos.

To bridge this gap, a few techies banded together to start the LetsMap project to create a map of all the flood-prone areas. The data will be collected through an online platform where inputs will be sought from the public. Services are offered in English, Hindi and Kannada.

About the project, Tejas Mahajan from Reap Benefit, said, "Whenever it rains continuously for long periods, certain spots get flooded. Any citizen facing such issues can use the platform to upload details. Currently, we are taking data points on location and pictures of the area. We are using the Whatsapp chatbox and a form to crowdsource the data."

He added, "With sufficient data from the public, we will be able to triangulate the possible reasons for certain areas getting waterlogged. This could also allow us to create an early warning system or take preventive measures by the parastatal agencies."

Citizens who list their areas for the flood-area mapping project could also be supported with assistance during emergency times.

> **"With sufficient data from the public, we will be able to triangulate the possible reasons for some areas getting waterlogged**

"At the moment, we are just in the data-collection stage and are not filtering out any data. If the dataset is submitted to any parastatal agency, we will be able to filter the inaccuracies and verify using the photo provided. We are also doing a weekly check of the data and haven't found any false claims as of now," he added.

The platform has been active for the past 2.5 months and has received 45 data points from 22 areas that have been mapped thus far. According to the team, there has been a growing interest in this project not limited to just the city but across the country. "Since the link for the platform was posted on Twitter, we are getting requests from Mumbai, Delhi, Kerala, and Chennai. Red alerts were issued in Karnataka coastal region and in the Mumbai region, there were heavy rains. Initially, it was envisioned for Bengaluru, but the dataset is growing based on public interest."

Being an open-source platform, citizens can also take the map to ward councillors and with accurate visualisation of the location area, solutions can be worked out easily.

"It will enable citizens to investigate and question officials based on the frequency of the occurrence of the event in the same area. Officials discovering the problem can also deep-dive into solution mode and do the necessary budgetary allocation for solutions," he added.

57% excess rainfall in July

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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Bengaluru Urban district has seen an excess rainfall of 57% in July with 143 mm of rainfall reported. Though monsoon was weak in the beginning, it has picked up and Karnataka reported excess rainfall. Karnataka was to receive 421.8 mm of rainfall in the first two months of monsoon (till July 27), however it had received 23% of excess rainfall (518.1 mm). This monsoon has seen excess rainfall across the country. The entire country has seen 10% excess rainfall than normal. The neighbouring states of Telangana had 107% and Tamil Nadu has seen 77% of excess rainfall.

In a Lok Sabha reply, Union Minister of State for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh said that India was vulnerable to climate change and this was reflected with the increase in the frequency of extreme weather events due to which several parts of the country are affected with meteorological hazardous events.

"Observations indicate that various parts of the country have witnessed increasing extreme weather events in the backdrop of global warming. Complex interactions between the earth system components amidst the warming environment and regional anthropogenic influences have led to a rise in frequency of localised heavy rainfall events, drought and flood occurrences, and increase in the intensity of tropical cyclones etc. Studies have reported significant rising trends in the frequency and the magnitude of extreme rainfall across India. Changing monsoon patterns and occurrences of extremes have affected various parts of the country," he said.

Temperature rise

Though Bengaluru is seeing more cloudy days, many parts of Karnataka have been witnessing hot temperatures. According to Singh, "India's average temperature has risen by around 0.7°C during 1901-2018."

According to the minister, the summer monsoon precipitation (June to September) over India has declined by around six pc from 1951 to 2015, with notable decreases over the western Ghats. "There has been a shift in the recent period toward more frequent dry spells (27 pc higher during 1981-2011 relative to 1951-1980) and more intense wet spells during the summer monsoon season.

A pourakarmika runs for cover as rain lashes Bengaluru

The overall decrease of seasonal summer monsoon rainfall during the last six to seven decades has led to an increased propensity for droughts over India. Both the frequency and spatial extent of droughts have increased significantly during 1951-2016. In particular, areas in the southern peninsula have experienced more than two droughts per decade," the minister said in a reply.

Bengaluru hotels throw open doors to furry guests too

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

City hotels are opening their doors to pet with the upsurge in the family staycations after the pandemic. Many families are getting out but don't want to leave their pets behind, so hotels are turning pet friendly.

Earlier pet parents would have to leave pets at boarding centres, or even would cancel their vacay plans. Now many hotels are allowing pets and even have a separate food menu and play area for the pets.

Shalabh Arora, director of marketing, Four Seasons Hotel Bengaluru said, "With an upsurge in the family staycation segment especially since the pandemic, hotels are seeing an increase in enquiries from pet parents who don't want to leave their pets behind while they are vacationing."

He said the pets have their own bed and personal bowl in the room. "There's a dedicated area in the al fresco section of our restaurant, CUR8 where the family can enjoy their meals. A special a la carte Pet Menu is available for in-room orders, accessible through iPads in every room and our chefs are happy to cater to dietary requirements."

Ajay Sampige, Asst Vice President, Royal Orchid and Regenta Hotels stated that with the number of pet owners shooting up drastically in the last two years, they have opened lawn area which is connected to three of the F&B outlets including the one where the brunch is served, to pet parents. "During lockdown, many single professionals also became pet parents. And after offices opened, they realised their only time with pets would be on the weekends and so, cafes and hotels started seeing an influx of queries from them to check if they allow pets. We have tied up with pet-friendly agencies who can help us manage requirements from food and keeping pets engaged. We recently introduced a separate menu for pets," said Sampige.

Vinesh Gupta, General Manager, The Den Hotel Bengaluru said furry friends are dear to the hotel. "Demand is increasing each day. With regards to the service we provide to the pet parents, it's a full service hotel and any service they demand for, we make sure we do offer that for instance, grooming demand, transportable crate if required, pet friendly menu, and we customise it per their history and need of the particular pet."

This apart, the hotels carry out regular sanitisation in the areas where pets are allowed. "Pets are allowed to stay in the room with the parents and even roam in the hotel lawns if they want. We don't charge anything for the pet, we just charge for their sanitization," said Gupta.

BBMP in search of wastelands

Palike wants to cut down costs of transporting city's waste to landfills in other districts

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Waste from the city is sent to a few landfills in nearby areas that end up getting full quite fast

The rise in fuel cost is now stressing the BBMP's exchequer as the civic agency wants to find a landfill closer to the city. Their officials say that they are spending extensively on transporting the city's garbage to landfills as most of them are located in neighbouring districts. Now, the body wants to cut down the cost by identifying landfills nearby.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Solid Waste Management) Dr Harish Raj said, "We are planning to implement Integrated Solid Waste Management in Bengaluru. As of now, the transportation cost is increasing due to the distance of landfills. The city's waste is usually sent to a few landfills which end up filling fast. We want to have landfills closer to eight zones now. Ideally, we want to have landfills in all four directions around the city. For each landfill, we require at least 50 acres of land, and finding land near Bengaluru is a Herculean task. We have zeroed in on one more landfill and will reveal details soon."

Under an integrated system, the BBMP wants the entire processing to happen at landfills - like converting waste to energy or manure.

"Even door-to-door garbage collection is quite expensive as 500 to 600 compactors are put to use. Our focus is to reduce waste to reduce cost, which may be quite difficult in the core areas. Hence, we plan to implement it in outer zones. We are planning community-based waste processing. We want to see if one or more apartment associations can join hands in processing waste. It is not possible in areas like Chickpet or Gandhinagar, but can be tried in other zones," he said.

> **For each landfill, we require at least 50 acres of land, and finding land near Bengaluru is a Herculean task. We have zeroed in on one landfill**
>
> – Harish Raj, BBMP

The BBMP plans to stop collecting bulk waste. Although bulk waste is considered to be waste in excess of 100 kg, the agency wants to categorise it as waste above 10 kg in the near future. So far, 3,198 bulk generators have been identified in Bengaluru.

The Palike had recently issued a circular stating that bulk waste generators cannot send solid waste through BBMP vehicles. Instead, the builders must reserve space exclusively for solid waste management in their own building premises if the buildings cover more than five square kilometres or if the estimated waste generated is above 100 kg. The residential bulk waste generators in apartments, multi dwelling units, and gated communities consisting of more than 100 units should ensure segregation of solid waste at source within their premises to facilitate collection, processing, and disposal of segregated solid waste. Biodegradable waste has to be processed, treated, and disposed through composting or biomethanation within their premises. If there is no space within the premises, the waste generator should identify the space for waste processing in BBMP limits at their own cost.

Currently, BBMP is processing 5,000 tonnes of garbage.

"Many in Bengaluru are ready to invest in waste to energy plants, but there is shortage of land. We are also doing surveys of our lands so that we can find suitable land, and in that case, we can store construction and demolition waste of two or three wards before they are sent to landfills," Raj added.

Belathur residents are sick of civic inaction

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Residents of Belathur protest over bad infrastructure in the area

Fed up by the poor civic amenities and constant negligence by civic authorities, residents of Belathur staged a protest at the 3rd Main Road Cross on Sunday.

Residents have been complaining about the condition of roads for a long time, but no action has been taken yet.

Shantinath Kadam, a 62-year-old resident of the area told Bangalore Mirror, "We are angered because the roads are not in usable conditions. BWSSB dug up the road and work was not done properly. The garbage management in the area is so poor and there are no proper drains. Footpaths have also been encroached. People are facing a tough time so we decided to express our frustration by conducting a peaceful protest with the help of Jana Swayam Sevak Trust."

Another resident said that the road has been in bad shape for almost eleven years now.

Ananth Kumar, also a resident, said, "The biggest problem is that due to the poor drainage systems, our apartments have started to flood. Roads are flooding due to the rain and rajakaluve water is coming inside our apartment. At this point, we have become scared of the rainy season."

More than 300 families, including children and elderly from nearby apartments, gathered to protest together.

"We have complained to the BBMP, BWSSB, and the MLA previously as well. In November last year, MLA Arvind Limbavali visited the area and even directed the concerned officials of BBMP to take immediate action, but nothing was done," Ananth added.

Residents reported that due to stagnant water on the roads, the area has developed a bad stench. Schoolchildren have also been facing problems due to poor management in the area.

"School buses have refused to come to this area and ask the parents to walk their children for 700 m. Sometimes, it takes 40 minutes to navigate a stretch of 3 km. A few months ago, after many complaints, a BWSSB official came to inspect the area, but he made the situation even worse" said Sunny Patil, another resident.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Neglected area
KR Puram

Construction materials are being dumped near the lake area in KR Puram extension.

Dumping menace
Kavi Lakshmisha Road

This is on Kavi Lakshmisha Road right in front of Jain Mahavir College. Residents are dumping waste here.

Is this allowed?
Sivananda Railway Underpass

This lorry crashed into a barrier in the Sivananda Railway Underpass. Why are police allowing these vehicles?

Great east-west gas connection divide

People from places like HMT ward have been requesting PNG connections

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There is a great divide between east and west in Namma Bengaluru. While many residents staying in the eastern parts have been able to procure piped natural gas (PNG) connections, those in the west have not been so lucky.

People staying in and around T Dasarahalli and HMT wards have been requesting the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to provide PNG. However, GAIL's response has left them stunned.

A resident told BM, "I had recently sent a mail to GAIL stating that the flats where I stay are supposed to be connected with PNG. GAIL India was the main party chosen for providing the same. Even after three years, the connection is getting delayed for various reasons, including clearance with intra-departmental and other local corporations and corporators."

To this, GAIL replied (in a mail), "Despite having BBMP permission in HMT ward for pipeline road for last couple of years, we are unable to deliver due to the local area representatives not allowing the GGL contractors to complete the installation and gas charging of secondary network, causing bottleneck in commencement of gas supply to your apartment. Although efforts are on to pursue with local area representatives for allowing the pipeline construction work, under the uncertain circumstances, the timeline for MDPE connectivity for the apartment cannot be ascertained for the reasons stated above."

Meanwhile, more than 25,000 households in the Mahadevapura assembly constituency have been equipped with piped natural gas (PNG) connections. Despite the project starting in 2015, only 15 per cent of Bengaluru was covered under the project over 7 years.

Piped Natural Gas (PNG) offers greater convenience than LPG cylinders.

Union Minister of State for Petrol and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli said, "As on May 31, CGD entity has provided

GAIL has finished laying distribution pipelines in the Mahadevapura constituency

> **Even after three years, the connection is getting delayed for various reasons, including clearence with intra-departmental corporations**
>
> – Resident

2,27,259 PNG domestic connections and established 55 CNG stations in Bengaluru Rural and Urban districts."

At a project cost of Rs 178 crore, GAIL has completed the task of laying distribution pipelines in the Mahadevapura constituency. While the project was delayed for the past few years due to the pandemic, excluding Varthur ward, the rest of the Mahadevapura and some Gram Panchayats have been equipped with the pipeline. GAIL officials are currently working on charging the lines for individual households. 370 km of the line was proposed in Mahadevapura currently, out of which 270 km have been commissioned and 100 km in Bellandur and Varathur are under process.

Speaking about the project, Secretary of Mahadevapura Task Force (MTF) Clement Jayakumar said, '' Around 20 per cent work in Mahadevapura has been completed. 50,000 households have been equipped with the line, and we are targeting 75,000 by 2023, but with increased demand for the PNG connections, we are pushing GAIL to finish by April 2023 so that we can reach 1 lakh by the end of next year".

The MTF has been coordinating with BBMP and GAIL to secure permissions for road-digging.

Jayakumar added that the project will enable more citizens to avail of cooking gas without the hassle of hauling cylinders frequently. He also said that with lesser door-step deliveries being made, traffic congestion is likely to reduce.

BBMP to provide tuitions for poor kids

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will launch a new project under which it will provide tuitions to poor children studying in the third and fifth standards from August 15 in coordination with NGOs.

The project will be launched at places across Bengaluru on a pilot basis under the Vidyarthi Belaku Adhyayana Kendra scheme.

The tuition timings will be between 5:30 to 7 pm.

The project's objective is to provide children from slums and below-poverty line families with more learning opportunities, training, assistance with homework, and developing skills.

Ram Prasat Manohar, Commissioner of BBMP Welfare Department, stated that the classrooms of BBMP schools will be utilised for the purpose presently. Local NGOs will be given authority to monitor tuition centres.

The tutions will be held between 5:30 to 7 during the evenings

Various NGOs will provide necessary equipment and study materials to students. Youngsters who have completed their graduation and post- graduation will teach the students and guide them.

> **Different NGOs will be supplying necessary equipment and study materials to the students as a part of the BBMP project that launches on August 15**

The BBMP will give an amount of Rs 1,500 to these children. Every tuition centre will accommodate 20 to 30 students.

Students studying in BBMP and government schools run by the Education Department can participate. – IANS

Long weekend out of city gets pricey

Despite high hotel prices, people are looking for a break

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With a long weekend ahead, starting August 13, people in the city are planning trips to nearby places. However, for those planning last moment trips, prices have increased quite a bit.

Travel agents in Bengaluru say that places like Gokarna, Goa, and Chikkamagaluru are popular travel spots for city folks. People are reportedly willing to go to these places despite the recent hike in prices.

Srinith S, a travel agent in the city, said, "A lot of people are going out of the city during the long weekend. The hotels in these places have also increased their prices by at least 10 to 20 per cent. People are unfazed by it and are still planning to make their trips because it is a long weekend, they want a change."

Rijesh Murthy, another travel agent said, "People are coming to me asking for places like Coorg, Mysore, and Ooty. Because of the heavy demand for these places, the hotels there have almost doubled their prices. For example, if a room in those places was priced at Rs 2,500 a night, it is Rs 5,000 now."

City folks say that they want a break from their monotonous life.

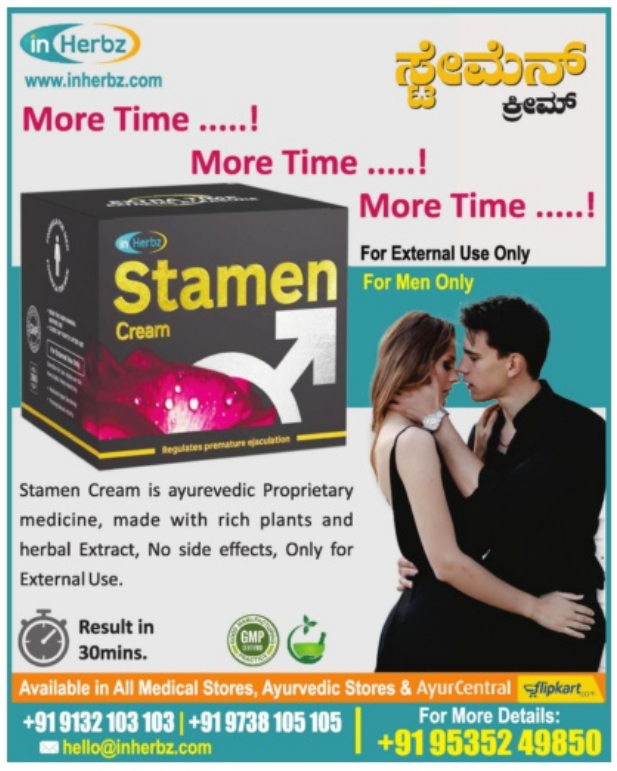
Sanjay Gowda, working as a manager, said, "We have been planning to go out for quite some time now, but we could not go out because we had work, our children had school. However, this weekend, we are planning to make some time for relaxing away from the daily hustle. It is true that the trip will cost us a lot, but it is okay."

Some of the people are traveling out of the city to escape the rain spells too.

Rakshith Agarwal, working as a freelancer, said, "It has been raining for a very long time, and from what it looks like, it will continue all month. We wanted to celebrate Raksha Bandhan and our weekend by going out, so we decided to book a small trip to Gokarna. It will be a nice change of weather."

For some people, the last-moment hikes in hotel and flight prices have cost them their plans.

Vijay Gosangi, an IT professional, said, "We were planning to go to Goa for the weekend. However, the flight tickets and hotels added up to be too expensive, so we decided to cancel the plan."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3-km walk with a 75-m-long Tricolour in their hands

The resident welfare association of Harlur and Somasundrapalya were out on the streets with a 75-metre-long National Flag with which they walked three kilometres.

The flag was ordered to be made at a store in Minerva circle and cost between Rs 10,000-15,000. The idea of making a 75 metre flag was to mark 75 years of independence day.

Kavita Reddy, a resident of HSR layout, said, " From the start of the pandemic, celebrations have been quite low key as people have not come out. Independence day being the most important and since it is the 75th year, we wanted to do something special and hence we got the flag."

She said people came out to their balconies to see this and it was a great way to socialise too.

The flag was taken around the localities and the residents have decided to march with it on August 13 too. Ramkrishna Reddy, another resident, said, "Taking the flag with us brings a personal connection. We walked along with it and felt patriotic. Many individuals joined us for the walk as well and many passersby who saw the flag had smiles on their faces." **— Iffath Fathima**

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Bengaluru lakes on brink

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bengaluru are mostly rural or peri-urban. These waterbodies do not have stress factors that urban lakes face. A bad sanitation system leading to the discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage and industrial effluents are the reasons behind the poor water quality of urban lakes. Most of the industrial areas are releasing effluents directly into the lakes," said V Ramprasad, co-founder of Friends of Lakes.

While lake activists, environmentalists and researchers, on numerous occasions in the past, have highlighted various industrial areas in the city violating the Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) policy of the government and discharging effluents into the waterbodies, KSPCB has a different story.

As per the KSPCB's report on water pollution control status of industries operating in Bengaluru, there are hardly any defaulters when it comes to ZLD.

According to KSPCB statistics, there are 1,589 industries under orange and red categories operating in the city, 804 industries in Bengaluru east region, 2,263 industries in Bengaluru south, and 1,228 industries in Bengaluru north area.

All together, 5,884 industries in the city generate sewage effluents. Out of these, KSPCB found only four industries in the Bengaluru east region with inadequate facilities to manage effluents. The remaining 5,880 industries have either common effluent treatment plants or dedicated effluent treatment plants. Two industries were found to be transporting sewage effluents to BWSSB's STPs.

"The reports from KSPCB are contradictory. Industries have been discharging untreated effluents into waterbodies in many areas in the city," said Ramprasad.

Activists said urban watershed management in the city is not well planned and there is a lot of disconnect in the work done by various departments. They said there is a lack of single entity accountability, and every agency is busy passing the buck.

"It is high time that the state or at least Bengaluru takes it up and formulates a single entity responsible for all water-related issues. While having STPs for every lake might sound like a good solution, lack of space is the biggest constraint," said a city based prominent lake activist.

The roles and responsibilities of the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) should also be put under the scanner, experts said.

"Being a regulatory body, while KTCDA is supposed to be the one-point solution to all issues related to lake water quality, it has been shying away from the responsibilities. KTCDA is supposed to organise stakeholder meetings regularly to ascertain the status of waterbodies and come up with measures to improve water quality," added Ramprasad.

Metro work: commuters' nightmare?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, reports showed, as of March, 70% of the work was still pending at the elevated corridor in Bannerghatta Road.

Suhas Ghosh, a resident of the area, said the road has become a traffic nightmare for commuters. "Sometimes the road is so congested that a 10 minute-distance takes up to 25-30 minutes to traverse. A large part of the road has been taken up by the construction work; the entire area is sludgy. There are schools and malls in the area, so it is always congested... Metro construction seems to be taking forever."

Meanwhile, the traffic police have been trying to control the congestion in the area, however, are unable to do much in the recurring rain.

"We have deployed more personnel in the area to control and divert the traffic. Our team is also tracking traffic congestion through Google maps and people's complaints.... Even we cannot do so much with the ongoing construction and rains; however, we are trying to divert the traffic as much as we can," said Kala Krishnaswamy, deputy commissioner of police (traffic), east division.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Just pass class

There are two VIPs in the State who claim the 'backbencher' tag. According to Minister for Heavy Industries Murugesh Nirani, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and he are 'back benchers'. At a programme, he said, "Bommai and I are from the same college. I can proudly say that we were scoring only 35% marks in the exam. That was because this was enough for us to get promoted to the next class. We were content if we got promoted. Many used to ask us why we were partying for 'just pass' and we used to say that we were very happy with that. One of my college mates was a meritorious student but he doesn't know how to shop. So, I can say that many low-scoring candidates have done well in business." Before any student gets the wrong idea, to put things in context, Nirani was speaking to women entrepreneurs to not be low on confidence even if they have not studied well.

Tightrope walk

Birthday boy Siddaramaiah had a tough time reaching the venue in Davanagere where a mega programme was organised to celebrate his 75th birthday. National leaders of the Congress party had descended at the venue which was attended by lakhs of people. However, when Siddaramaiah landed at the venue, he had to face the first hurdle that was to cross the slushy field. Due to overnight rainfall, the pathway had become slushy and Siddaramaiah had to keep each step with care. As if this were not enough, then there were so many who wanted to take a selfie with the leader. He was aided by his security staff, but even so he had a tough time walking in the slush and with the

crowd. Besides the political message, Siddaramaiah also wanted to convey that he and DK Shivakumar were united. He alleged media was trying to create differences, but the reality was that they were thick friends. To emphasise this, DKS gave the leader a warm hug too. However, BJP functionaries released a video later (we cannot vouch for its veracity of course) to indicate he was tutored by Rahul Gandhi to do so.

Sisters, welcome

CM Bommai is known for his witty one liners. He was at his best during the inauguration of a women entrepreneurship's digital marketing programme organised by UBUNTU. Inaugurating the programme, Bommai said, "I welcome all my elder and younger sisters to the programme. I cannot say my elder and younger brothers as the programme is filled with all the women entrepreneurs. However, a few men present at the venue waved at the CM and the CM in a lighter vein added, "Okay I accept that I have seen you guys so I welcome a few of my brothers who are also part of the programme." The CM then said, "A woman is the finest creation of our creator. In fact, women have got power of attorney from God. As creators cannot create everything, he gave power of attorney for women to create further. I know the power of women and hence we have launched a programme named Stree Samarthya."

Got a taste of jam?

Citizens often wonder if netas get a taste of traffic jams ever. Former Minister and BTM Layout MLA Ramalinga Reddy did get a bitter taste during the recent Siddaramotsava programme. Reddy who had arrived from Bengaluru could not go to the venue in his car. Due to a mega traffic jam as lakhs of Siddaramaiah's supporters were ferried in buses to Davanagere, Reddy was forced to shun his car and instead walk to the venue. Reddy was seen walking at least three kilometres before a Congress worker took his bike to give a drop Reddy till the venue. Sources said that even Rahul Gandhi was stuck in a traffic jam and was a bit delayed.

Superb at '60'

Well-known Kannada actor Shivaraj Kumar recently celebrated his 60th birthday. He is still one of the fittest actors who keeps busy churning out movie after movie. In fact, Shivanna (as he is popularly known), acts in more movies than many of the youngsters. Recently, during an audio launch, the anchor said how Shivanna was the most popular actor among different age groups and how he was still king of the box office

at the age of 60. Shivanna immediately stopped the anchor and questioned her why he was being referred to often as 60-year old! Many actors have been saying how they have become actors watching Shivanna's movies from younger days. Well, as it is said age is a number, Shivanna is always oozing with so much energy that even many younger actors find it tough to match his energy.

Teary speech

Netas shedding tears during public speeches is nothing new. The latest addition is KR Nagar MLA Sa Ra Mahesh. Mahesh had hit headlines last year after a spat with the then Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri and had even staged a dharna. During a recent college inauguration programme, Mahesh shed tears over a social media post by a student who had questioned the MLA's contribution to the society. Everyone was taken by surprise when Mahesh became emotional and recalled his struggling days as a student and how he had taken so much effort and pain to reach where he is. Mahesh didn't stop there and said he doesn't only know how to cry but also knows how to teach people a lesson when they are on the wrong path.

Not smooth as silk at saree shops

Saree manufacturers in city suffer as weavers skip work to go back to hometowns

Shreyashi Mukherjee
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Silk saree manufacturers in the city are facing hitches with the production of new sarees. They say that handloom as well as powerloom weavers are not showing up to work regularly, leading to a decrease in their production as well as losses in their business.

The manufacturers complain that post-covid, weavers have not been regular. They reportedly work for a few days and then head back to their villages again. They also say that raw silk prices have increased by almost 60-65 per cent.

Dinesh, working in a saree manufacturing store in Yelahanka, said, "The sale of sarees has gone down by almost 50 per cent. People are not buying a lot of sarees these days. On top of that, the production of sarees has also been affected because of the weavers. Most of our handloom workers are in their villages because of health issues of their own or of family members. This is why we are facing losses in business."

Saree manufacturers in the city complain that post-covid, weavers have not been regular at work

Forced shut

Surendran, who used to run a saree manufacturing shop in KR Market, said, "Due to all the irregularities, we had to stop our business. The weavers were not showing up at all and the production of sarees in our shop had come to a halt. We did not have any sarees to sell. That forced us to shut down."

Sarada, managing another saree manufacturing store in Bannerghatta Road, said, "We have powerloom workers, but even they are not showing up regularly. The workers will work for three months and then will take holidays for two months. Sometimes, they will not show up for work without even informing. Before covid things were fine, but after covid this is the state of affairs."

> **"Sale of sarees has gone down by almost 50%. People are not buying many sarees of late. Now, production of sarees has also been affected**
>
> – Dinesh, saree store owner

Harish Kumar works at a saree manufacturing store in S G Palya.

Kumar told BM that the price of silk had hiked, in addition to workers being irregular for one-and-a-half months now. He was also worried as he was not charging too much for silk in fear of people not buying sarees altogether.

Weavers on the other hand say that they are suffering from health issues and have no other option but to take leave from work.

Manjunath, a handloom worker from Hosakota, said, "After covid, I did not receive my full salary. Whatever I received was not enough to cover my daily expenses. I have to take care of my family, so after working, when I gathered a little bit of money, I went back to my native place to help them."

1,137 covid cases in city

Karnataka on Sunday reported 1,837 fresh covid-19 cases and four fatalities, taking the cumulative infections and deaths to 40,20,087 and 40,118 respectively, the health department said.

The day also saw 1,290 people being discharged, taking the total number of recoveries to 39,68,029, according to a health bulletin. Active cases stood at 11,898, it said.

Maximum in city

Bengaluru Urban accounted for the maximum number of 1,137 cases and one death.

Other districts too reported infections including 113 in Dharwad, 83 in Mysuru, 57 in Belagavi, 55 in Ballari, 36 in Bengaluru Rural, 28 in Bagalkote and 25 in Davangere.

Other than Bengaluru, one death each was also reported in Dakshina Kannada, Davangere and Mysuru.

The bulletin said Yadgir alone reported zero infection and nil death.

A total of 29,425 samples were tested in the State including 21,801 using RT-PCR methods, taking the cumulative number of specimens examined to 6.80 crore.

The number of vaccinations done in the State rose to 11.67 crore, with 4,956 people being inoculated on Sunday, it said. —PTI

ELSEWHERE ININDIA

India's maiden small rocket mission fails

The maiden mission of India's brand new rocket, the Rs 56 crore Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), on Sunday morning ended in a failure. The failure of a small rocket in ejecting the two satellites into their intended orbit puts the focus on the safety of the India's human space mission that will be carried out by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mk III (GSLV-Mk III) . Hours after the SSLV-D1 was launched with two satellites, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said satellites are unusable as they were put into a different orbit than the intended one. – IANS

CWG 2022: Golden show by Indian boxers

Nikhat Zareen punched her way to a 5-0 win over her opponent, on Sunday

The indomitable Nikhat Zareen added a Commonwealth Games light flyweight (50kg) title to her bulging trophy cabinet while Amit Panghal (51kg) began his redemption journey with a much-needed gold winning show, here on Sunday. Nikhat asserted her dominance over Northern Ireland's Carly Mc Naul as she punched her way to a comprehensive 5-0 win in her maiden CWG appearance. Panghal, on the other hand, clinched the title with a comprehensive 5-0 win. Indian boxers made it three out of three golds on the day as young Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) too reigned supreme on her CWG debut.

Triple jump

Eldhose Paul won a historic triple jump gold in a 1-2 finish for India as the country bagged four medals on a Super Sunday on the concluding day of athletics competitions. After the mad rush of four medals coming within 30 minutes, India's medal tally from athletics swelled to eight -- 1 gold, 4 silver, 3 bronze -- the best in the CWG history outside the country. Abdulla Aboobacker was second.

Hockey

Skipper Savita Punia led from the front with a spectacular display as the Indian women's hockey team overcame the stopwatch controversy to beat New Zealand 2-1 in shootout and win the bronze medal. This is the team's first medal at CWG in 16 years.

Rivers in spate as heavy rains lash Karnataka

Villages located near Tunga and Tungabhadra rivers are worst affected following downpour in catchment region

Several rivers are in spate following heavy rains lashing many parts of Karnataka, especially villages located near Tunga and Tungabhadra rivers, officials said.

At least one lakh cusecs of water was released from Tungabhadra dam into the Tungabhadra river following heavy downpour in the catchment region and heavy inflow of water in Vijayanagara district.

The Tungabhadra dam with a storage capacity of 1,633 ft already has water level reaching 1,631 ft.

To maintain the balance, one lakh cusecs of water was released, which has created a flood scare among the people living in the lower riparian of Tungabhadra dam.

Officials have sounded an alert for the locals in the areas located near the course of the river.

Of the 33 floodgates, 30 were opened on Sunday, following which many heritage sites of Vijayanagara dynasty in Hampi have submerged.

Sources in the Water Resources department said Bhadravati, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Krishna, Cauvery, Kabini, Hemavathi, Supa and Varahi, and their subsidiary rivers are in spate. The rivers in coastal Karnataka too are swollen and a majority of the dams built on these rivers are to the brim. According to the meteorology department, a low pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts has resulted into a depression.

A waterlogged field in Kalaburagi after heavy downpour

Heavy rainfall was reported in Castle Rock, Siddapur, Udupi, Murnadu in Kodagu; Nilkund ARG in the Uttara Kannada district; Kota in Udupi district, Mangaluru Airport, Somwarpet in Kodagu district; Panambur, Dharmasthala and Belthangadi in Dakshina Kannada; Honavar in Uttara Kannada; Puttur and Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada; Kalasa, Sringeri, Chikkamagaluru and Koppa in Chikkamagaluru, Hunchadakatte in Shivamogga.

"Heavy rain likely to occur at a few places with isolated very heavy falls over all the districts of coastal Karnataka and heavy to very heavy rain likely to occur at isolated places over Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu districts of south interior Karnataka," the department said in its forecast.

The department said heavy rain was likely to occur at isolated places over Bidar, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Yadgir, Bagalkote, districts of north interior Karnataka and over Hassan and Shivamogga districts of south interior Karnataka.

Prediction affected

Climate change has hampered the ability of the forecasting agencies to accurately predict severe events and weather bureaus across the world are focusing on augmenting the observational network density and the weather prediction modelling to improve predictability, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra has said. He also said that the number of heavy rainfall events has increased and that of light rainfall events has decreased. – PTI

Carrying corpse on shoulder, villagers wade through swollen stream for cremation

Residents of Kodlu village in Shivamogga district had to wade through chest-deep water of a stream to carry the dead to the crematorium that was on the other side, sources said on Sunday. According to the sources, an octogenarian died on Saturday due to age-related ailment in Kodlu and the challenge before the family and relatives was crossing the stream flowing in the village. The rivulet was in spate due to the torrential rains over the past few days. The family and the kin had no option but to carry the body on their shoulders and wade through the waters to reach the crematorium. The villagers told reporters that they face this problem during the rainy season. – PTI

Idgah Maidan row to resurface as BBMP says it is govt property

The Wakf board on Sunday said it was preparing for a legal battle after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) declared that Idgah Maidan belonged to the Revenue Department.

Objecting to the BBMP's decision, Wakf Board Chairman Shafi Saadi stated that the board would wage a legal battle. "The Supreme Court has given a verdict in 1965 that Idgah Maidan is the property of the Wakf board. So, the decision is not tenable and the order amounts to contempt of court," Saadi said. "We are approaching the legal experts now," Saadi said. The BBMP had earlier stated that the property does not belong to it. But on Saturday, it released an order stating that Idgah Maidan is the property of the Revenue Department.

Wakf board had applied for a 'khata' (property legal documents) with the BBMP, which was rejected. Joint Commissioner Srinivas had issued a notice to the Wakf board to submit documents to claim ownership of Idgah Maidan.

File photo of security at Chamarajpet Idgah Maidan

The BBMP had given two-months time to produce the documents. As Wakf board failed to produce the required documents, the BBMP refused to issue the Khata and declared Karnataka Revenue Department to be the default owner of the land. A Citizen's Forum had submitted an application to celebrate the Independence Day on August 15 in the premises of Idgah Maidan.

A few months ago after the BBMP had asked the Wakf to submit the relevant documents, the row had subsided. But, now with the latest BBMP order, the maidan row is all set to resurface. – IANS

Tidy talk: What Rishi Sunak revealed about Akshata Murthy

Britain's prime ministerial candidate, Rishi Sunak, has shared that there was "clearly something" when he met his now wife, Akshata Murty – the daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy – at a university in the US.

In an interview with 'The Sunday Times', the former Chancellor opened up about his family life as he reflected on one of the secrets behind his marriage being the fact that the couple are very different people.

"I'm incredibly tidy, she's very messy. I'm much more organised, she is more spontaneous," Sunak said.

"She is not going to love me for saying this, but I'll be honest with you, she is not big on the whole tidying thing. She is a total nightmare, clothes everywhere... and shoes... oh God shoes," he said.

The couple, who met while he was studying for an MBA at Stanford University, got married in a two-day ceremony in Bangalore in 2006. Sunak, who was born in Southampton to Indian-origin parents, admits switching his class schedule around at Stanford "to be in a particular class" to sit next to Murty. "I didn't really need to take it but I did it anyway so we could sit next to each other," he said. – PTI

HEALTH TIP: Consuming excessive amounts of sugars increases the risk of tooth decay and unhealthy weight gain

Adults should eat at least five portions (400g) of fruit and vegetables per day

TRUE ALLIES

People with autism want technology to promote independence and not mask their behaviour

Many autistic people experience difficulties in expressing their emotions. This can result in increased anxiety, depression, anger and physical health problems.

Research shows autistic adults are significantly more likely to experience depression and anxiety than their peers.

Imagine a future, where technology could help people regulate their emotions and alert them to sensory overload before they became overwhelmed.

An increasing number of technological solutions that aim to help people regulate their emotions are being developed for autistic people, and some autistic people are adapting technology such as digital heart rate monitors to try and track their stress levels.

Many studies have explored autistic people's use of wearable technology, such as smart watches, virtual reality (VR) or brain-computer interfaces (BCI) to regulate their emotions.

BCIs are a direct communication pathway between the brain's electrical activity and an external device, commonly a computer or robotic limb.

Speaking to the community

But before our study no one asked the autistic community for their views on how useful the technology is.

Poor usability is a longstanding problem for autistic users of this technology because developers lack awareness of their needs.

A recent study found only 10 per cent of wearable technologies for autistic people addressed their needs and 90 per cent viewed autistic traits as shortcomings that need correcting.

Our recent study explored the autistic community's thoughts on any technology they had previously used to help them regulate their emotions and their views on what they need from technology.

Thirty-four autistic individuals and their allies (family, health and social care professionals and college staff) took part in focus groups.

We presented information on how emotional regulation technology could be used. For example, smart watches that detect physiological stress signals and prompt users to start coping techniques.

We found the autistic community was keen to use technology to help regulate their emotions but it often cost too much, was difficult to use without training and wasn't well adapted to their needs.

Our focus group results showed wearable technologies could be uniquely beneficial to autistic people, if they are involved in the design process.

> **Wearable technology can uniquely benefit autistic people if they are involved in the designing process**

Life with autism

One participant shared how their daughter deals with emotional challenges: "She looks perfectly fine and she's behaving perfectly fine. Except she's not. She hides it so well, the anxiety and everything that – we haven't got a clue! Sometimes the prodding can lead to a big explosion."

Meanwhile care staff spoke about how important it was to understand how autistic people are feeling: "You want to get in before the behaviour starts. Before it escalates. We could go in before to offer reassurance, a distraction. For other people it's withdrawal. give them their own space."

Another care worker said, "We know there might be a pattern but we just can't see it."

Participants told us technology could make all the difference. A relative of an autistic person said, "I'd like something … that he can self regulate, tell people how he's feeling. Something that's an app that somehow connects with a colour, so he can pick a picture that says how he's feeling and people know without it being a big song and dance."

Some autistic participants felt there is a shortfall of support for those with higher IQ.

One told us, "You feel like you kind of walk between the two worlds almost. You're not quite severe. So you're not at that point on the spectrum where you need a lot of support that you'd get if you were."

Help me, don't fix me

Most research has been based on out-of-date theories about autism, such as the idea it is a medical illness that can be cured or treated.

Recent breakthroughs in the neuro-diversity movement triggered a call for autism research to focus on empowering autistic people and their unique communication styles instead of trying to "fix" them.

Autistic participants agreed technological designs should promote independence, rather than try to mask autism.

Many participants were reluctant to use technology due to lack of confidence in their ability to use it, especially within community care settings. Other barriers included cost or lack of awareness about existing technology.

Our study results emphasised the importance of strategies that take an individual's life goals into consideration.

Although a lot of money is spent on developing new technologies, both researchers and healthcare organisations often fail to consider how it will be implemented in practice.

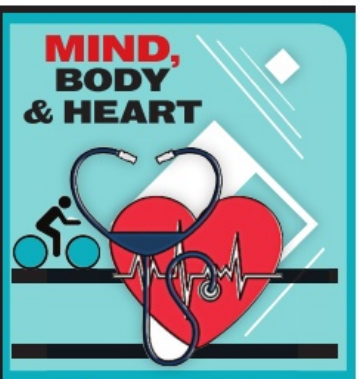
As one autistic person said: "If you're going to make something for someone ask them what they want. Don't just spit out something and go here's what I made. The amount of papers where people claimed to have made something for learning disabilities. Have you ever had it tested? Have you ever used it with anyone?"

Technology companies must create their products alongside the autistic community.

And products should aim to adapt the environment according to individual needs, rather than trying to change the person.

Autism is simply a different way of seeing the world. Not only would this new approach help develop useful technology based support strategies, it would help to create more inclusive environments for everyone.

- By Lauren Gillies-Walker and Naeem Ramzan , The Conversation



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I was over the moon when my partner of six years proposed a couple of weeks ago as we were on a romantic weekend.
I said yes straight away and, because we've been together a while, we decided that we should get married as soon as possible - this autumn - and have a fairly small, intimate wedding and reception. We'd talked about marriage over the years, but life just got in the way. But the time feels right now and I couldn't be happier. My problem is my fiance's sister is engaged and has set a wedding date for August next year. Now she's mad with me for getting married before her.
She told me: "You've ruined things for me because we've been planning our wedding for the past year and now you're doing it before us". I was pretty shocked. I don't see why we can't all be happy. I've always got on okay with her, but she's a bit of a princess.

COLEEN SAYS

It sounds like she's made this into a competition over which of you has the best day, missing the whole point of why she's getting married.
It's not like you arranged your wedding for the weekend before hers or stole all her ideas, so I don't know what her problem is.
She sounds a little spoiled.
So, my advice is, ignore it and get on with what you want to do.
Guests will still be up for her wedding next year and she'll get plenty of attention on the day.
You certainly haven't "ruined things" and I'm sure no one else thinks that either.
If you feel you have to say something to her, why not say: "I'm sorry you feel like this, but our weddings are almost a year apart and ours won't take anything away from yours. We've waited a long time to get married, so we wanted to do it soon". And leave it at that.
–Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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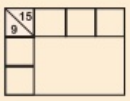
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

A three-digit number (100-999) is chosen at random. What is the probability that it is a multiple of 7?

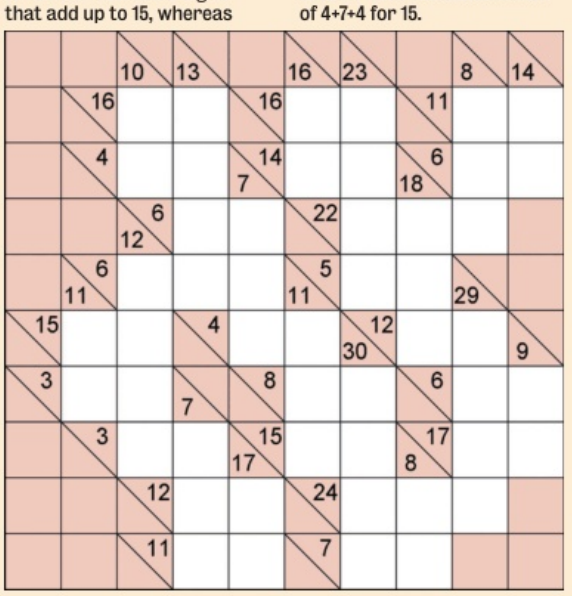
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

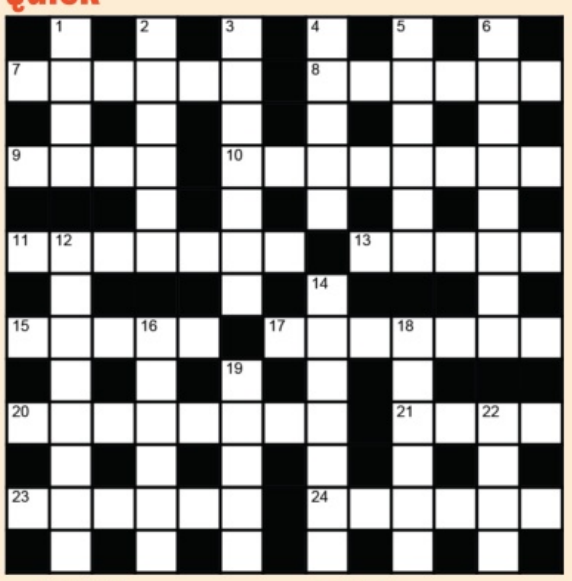


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Large desert (6)
8 Sticking points (6)
9 Sediment or dregs (4)
10 Supply route (4-4)
11 Prince ____ : eldest son of Queen Elizabeth? (7)
13 Glowing coal (5)
15 Shows off (5)
17 Morale boosting chat (3,4)
20 Playing the violin (8)
21 Indian queen (4)
23 Artillery discharges (6)
24 Olympic gold medallist ___ Chopra (6)

DOWN

1 Lacking in colour (4)
2 Former German emperor (6)
3 Tries out (7)
4 Moves with a lame walk (5)
5 Sanctuary (6)
6 Have good intentions about or for (4,4)
12 A scolding vicious woman (8)
14 Joining or blending gradually (7)
16 Karnataka Lake home to a bird sanctuary (6)
18 Lathe operator (6)
19 Booth; stand (5)
22 At hand (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS T

PBTWCOCV SK POAB OC SMB ZWBJBCS UKUBCS OJ ZTWS KX SMB ZTSM KX FKI.

Linemaro

Your face remains in my mind like a song that won't go away

Mindchow

Fear is the main source of superstition, and one of the main sources of cruelty

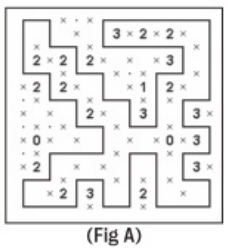
Joke of the day

Cannibal: Someone who is fed up with people

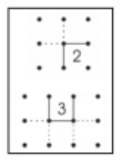
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

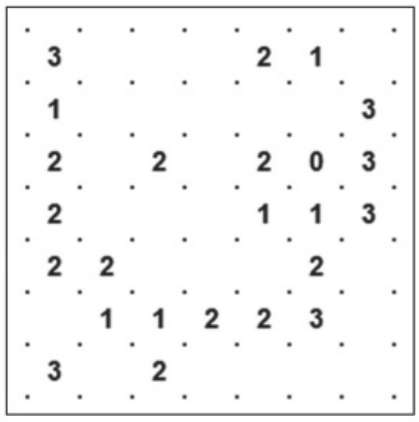


(Fig B) Not Allowed

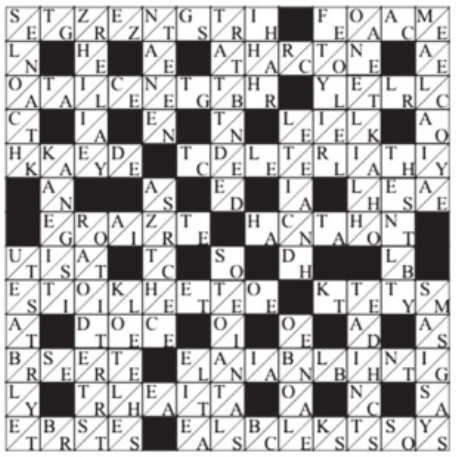
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7			B	
8				
9				

ACROSS

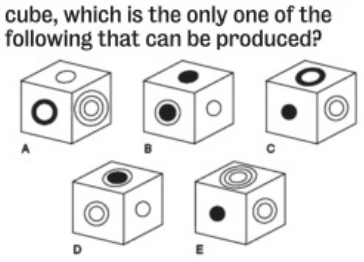
1 Edgar; 6 A alum;
7 In MIB; 8 Suave;
9 Pryer

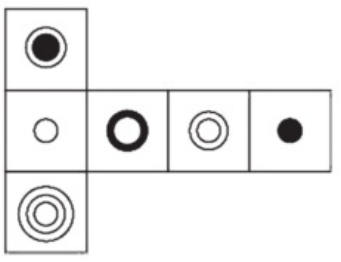
DOWN

1 Up urn (3-2); 2 Evil a;
3 Marge; 4 Bream;
5 Id Say

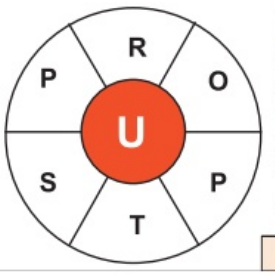
Mensapuzzle

When the above is folded to form a cube, which is the only one of the following that can be produced?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; **13** Good; **15** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1					4	
		7	5	3		1		6
	6		2					
						3	1	9
	3		7	4	9		2	
9	2	8						
					5		3	
7		6		2	1	4		
	5					2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 11

1 2 3 5

Medium = 2

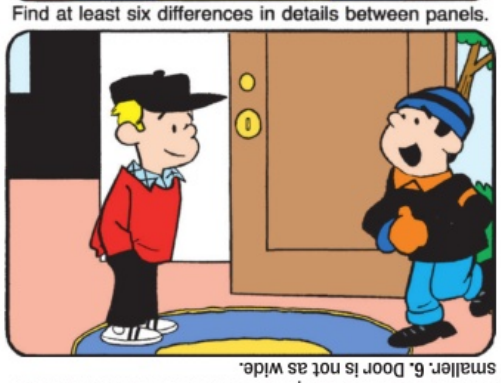
3 5 5 8

Hard = 10

1 5 9 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Border is added to rug. 3. Ear is smaller. 4. Stripe is added to sleeve. 5. Window is smaller. 6. Door is not as wide.

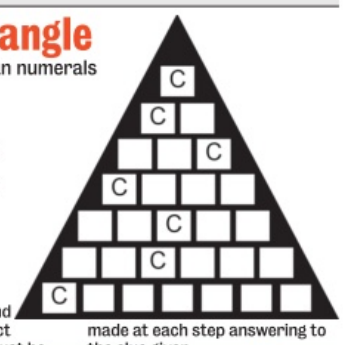
Riddler

Answer the following with parts of the body

1. Scholars
2. Part of a shoe
3. What every builder must have
4. Something made by whips
5. What soldiers carry

Alpha triangle

1 Hundred in Roman numerals
2 Company, abbr.
3 Beluga
4 Heart
5 Right-hand page
6 Anglican cleric
7 Grade as papers



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

HAVE A SEAT... THE MEDICINE MAN WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY
DOCTORS' OFFICES HAVE A SMELL ABOUT THEM I JUST HATE!
YEAH... YOU'D THINK THEY WOULD LEAVE THEIR GOLF SHOES AT THE CLUB
5-25

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

LET'S TAKE A BREAK FROM GHOST HUNTING. I WANNA WATCH A FEW MORE MOVIES TO SEE WHAT WE SHOULD DO NEXT!
COOL! I'LL RESEARCH WHO DIED AROUND THIS AREA IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.
TEXT ME WHAT YOU FIND OUT!
OF COURSE!
THEY'RE PERFECT FOR EACH OTHER.
HART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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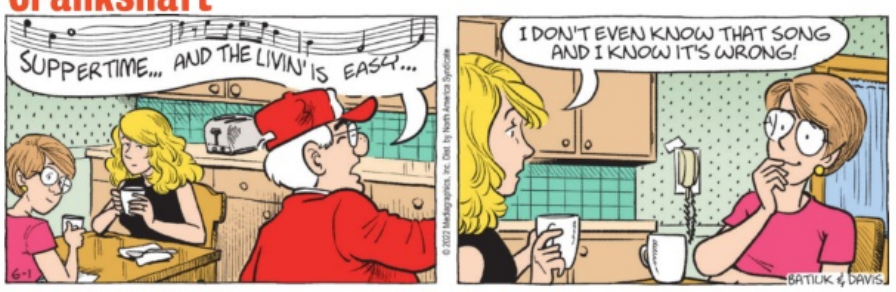
Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You will have a good day at work today. A promotion at work might be on your way. Disputes with your partner may settle down. You may lend money to increase your wealth. Your kid's health may improve now. You are likely to make some investments for your kid's future

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You are blessed by the moon today. Love is in the air. Singles may find suitable matches. You may do better in your professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery are likely to yield profits shortly.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may be happy due to a blessing from an auspicious planetary combination. You may have some sort of energy which may increase your social standing among people around you. You are likely to spend your time studying intellectual stuff.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The start of your day might be quite dull but the late evening will be better. Try to control the negativity around you. New people may connect with you at work. With the help of those new people, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before signing them.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may have control of your indecisiveness. Your kid's health will improve. Your colleagues will show support for your work, which will convert into profits later. A raise in your salary is likely. People working in dairy, water projects, homemakers, art and culture will do good in their work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You should avoid mixing your brain with your heart to take important decisions, it is advised to follow your intuition before making some decisions related to business, job and investments. Work load may be there but a blessing from elders will help you come out of a messy situation.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be busy with domestic issues. You might take an interest in artefacts, movies, and fashion which may enhance your creativity. You may spend money on buying some artefacts, household stuff which will improve your social status. You may become more polite. You may also plan to visit someplace you have wanted to with family and friends.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you will be happier, internal vitality will boost your self-confidence. You will feel relaxed after a sound sleep. Avoid carelessness in making decisions in terms of finance, profession and studies. You are likely to enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. You may face self-respect issues, but you need to keep being patient.

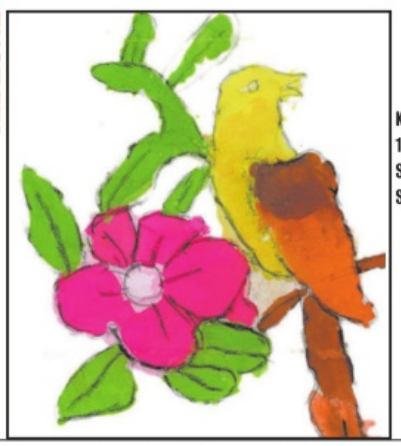
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you might overspend and that will affect your savings. Try to be careful while expressing yourself on the work and domestic front. Avoid lending money to anyone and should postpone making important decisions in real estate and other assets. You should try to not avoid your responsibilities.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today with the help of your strong network you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life, there may be a good understanding between you and your spouse.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You will have some peace in your mind today. This will show in your work too. Your destiny may help to complete your postponed projects and targets. You may show patience in your domestic life. You may have some skin or stomach-related issues.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be a victim of negative thoughts. You may feel dull. Impatient nature and arrogance may push you into taking difficult decisions. You may need the blessing of your elders to see growth in work. You should avoid making investments in dead assets.

KIDZONE



Karthik S, 10 Years, SES English School

Danusi Dev Atha, 8 Years, Delhi Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER 1. Pupils, 2. Heel [Sole and tongue are also acceptable], 3. Nails, 4. Lashes, 5. Arms

MENSA PUZZLE E

BULL'S EYE
opus, oust, pour, pout, rout, rust, soup, sour, spout, sprout, spur, spurt, stupor, SUPPORT, tour

FAST FIVE

R	A	G	E	D
U	L	A	M	A
N	I	M	B	I
U	V	E	A	S
P	E	R	R	Y

QUOTE UNCODE
Learning to live in the present moment is part of the path of joy.

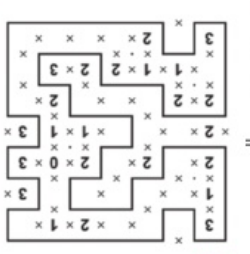
STRIKE OUT

S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H		F	O	A	M		
N		E		E		A	R	O	N		A			
A	T	L	E	N	G	T	H		Y	E	L	L		
C		A		E		T		L	E	K		A		
K	A	Y	A	K		C	E	L	E	R	I	T	Y	
		G	R	A	Z	E		A	C	T	O	N		
		N		A		D		A		L	E	A		
		A		S		H		B						
S	T	I	L	E	T	T	O		K	E	Y	S		
A		D	E	C		I		O		D		A		
B	E	E	T		E	N	A	B	L	I	N	G		
L		R	H	E	T	T		O		C		A		
E	R	S	E		A	S	B	E	S	T	O	S		

KAKURO

				16	13		16	23		8	14			
		10	9	7	1	16	7	9	5	2	9			
	16	4	1	3	7	14	1	7	9	6	1	5		
	11	6	2	4	3	22	6	8	9	5				
	6	3	1	2	1	5	11	1	4	29				
15	9	6	4	1	3	12	5	7	9					
3	2	1	7	8	1	7	6	5	1					
	2	1	17	15	7	8	17	9	8					
	3	2	4	8	24	9	7	8						
		11	12	9	7	6	1							

LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, Co, Ore, Core, Rector, Correct.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 3 + 5 + 1 = 11
Medium
3 x 5 – 8 – 5 = 2
Hard
9 + 5 – 4 x 1 = 10

SUDOKU

3	8	1	9	7	6	5	4	2
2	4	7	5	3	8	1	9	6
5	6	9	2	1	4	8	7	3
6	7	4	8	5	2	3	1	9
1	3	5	7	4	9	6	2	8
9	2	8	6	3	7	5	4	1
4	1	2	6	8	5	9	3	7
7	9	6	3	2	1	4	8	5
8	5	3	4	9	7	2	6	1

SOLVE IN 1M
The range is 100 to 999. 105 is the 1st multiple of 7 in the range. 994 is the last multiple of 7 in the range.
105+7(n–1)=994
(n–1)=(994–105)/7
n–1=127
n=128
p=128/(999–100+1)
p=128/900
p=32/225
p=.142222.....
p=14.22%

QUICK

LOOP

Volume No 16, Issue No 34 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Uninteresting sex life
During a film promotion, actor Taapsee Pannu stated that her sex life is not interesting enough to be invited to 'Koffee With Karan'

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Not easy to say goodbye

It's a wrap, but Rashmika is not good with bidding adieu

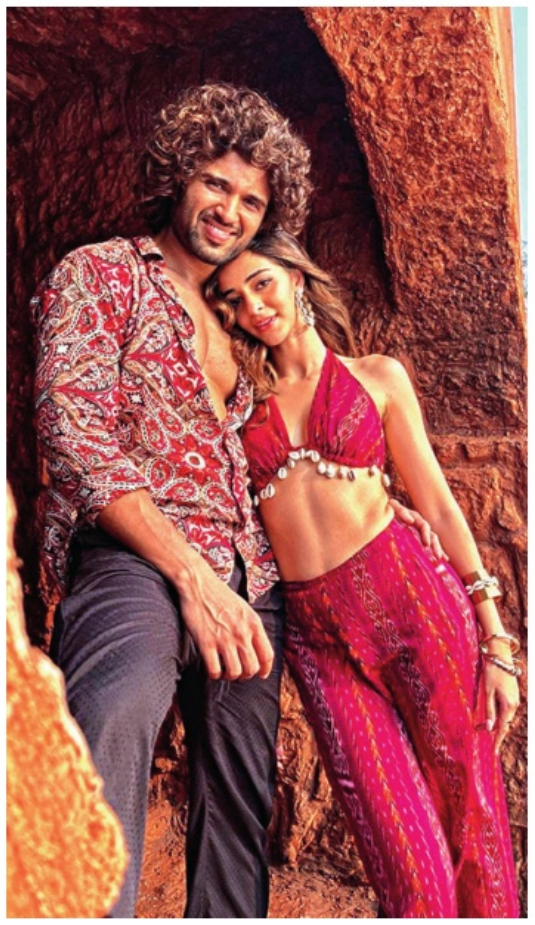
After an emotional wrap up of 'GoodBye' shoot, Rashmika Mandanna has started with her dubbing sessions for the film. Sharing a glimpse from the dubbing studio and her script, the actress wrote, "Never gets easy. goodbye." Directed by Vikas Bahl, this family entertainer will mark Rashmika's debut in Bollywood. She shares the frame with Amitabh Bachchan and Neena Gupta in 'GoodBye'.

Announcing the film's wrap, Rashmika had shared last month, "Goodbye. Hate to say goodbye to my baby 'Goodbye'...but guys it's a wrap for me for Goodbye! It's been 2 years since we began this journey amidst covid waves and everything (it was literally like the vows- through sickness and in health) but nothing could stop us from partying our way through it all and now I can't wait for you guys to see what Goodbye is really all about.. this is going to be funnnnnnn! Get ready to do some serious laughing." This film is slated for release in October this year.

Apart from 'GoodBye', Rashmika will also be seen essaying the lead in 'Animal' co-starring Ranbir Kapoor. She started shooting for this Sandeep Reddy Vanga helmed crime drama in April this year. 'Animal' is scheduled to hit the screens on August 11, 2023.

–ETimes

Sizzling stills



Actress Ananya Panday, who is quite active on social media, is currently busy promoting her upcoming film 'Liger' with Vijay Deverakonda. On Sunday, the actress upped the hotness quotient on Instagram as she shared sizzling pictures with Vijay from their song 'Aafat'. The duo looked all things stunning in the stills.

Sharing the picture with her fans, Ananya wrote, "#AAFAT watch our vibey song nowwww!!!!"

In no time, her fans and friends were seen reacting to her post. Her BFF Suhana Khan, who will be making her Bollywood debut with 'The Archies', dropped awestruck emojis. Sophie Choudry dropped a fire emoji. Her mom Bhavana Pandey's BFF Seema Sajdeh called her pictures 'nonsense'. She commented, "What nonsense and fyi that means illegally hot !!!" Her fans were seen dropping heart and fire emojis.

'Liger' is directed by Puri Jagannadh and backed by Karan Johar. It also stars Ramya Krishnan and Mike Tyson.

Demi goddess

Demi Moore is refusing to bow to societal norms when it comes to her hair.

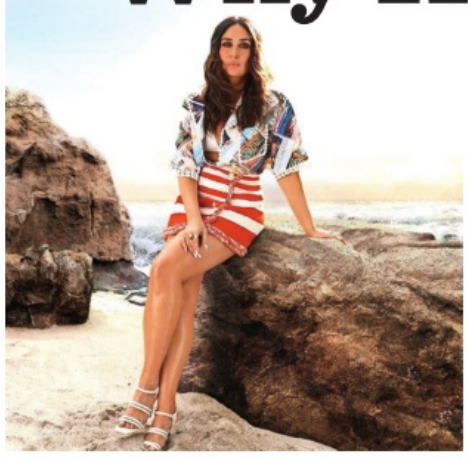
The GI Jane actress - once famed for her buzz cut - turns 60 in November but she's vowed to keep her long tresses.

Hollywood royalty Demi has changed her look over the years from a chic bob in Ghost to a slicked back crop in A Few Good Men and a long mane in Striptease. Now she has found her own style and is refusing to consider parting with her signature locks as she enters her next decade.

"I remember hearing someone say that when women get older they shouldn't have long hair. Like who says? Why shouldn't we?," the 59-year-old said.

Go Demi - we couldn't agree more.

Why Kareena had to up her game



When director Sujoy Ghosh offered her the adaptation of "The Devotion of Suspect X", Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan says she grabbed the opportunity with both hands as she wanted to share screen space with Jaideep Ahlawat and Vijay Varma.

Kareena has teamed up with Ghosh for the first time for the upcoming Netflix film, based on the 2005 bestselling Japanese novel of the same name by Keigo Higashino.

The Hindi version follows a single parent and her daughter, who commit a crime, and a neighbour who helps them cover it up amidst a police investigation.

Calling Ahlawat and Varma "actors from a different realm", Kareena said working with the duo turned out to be a transformative experience for her.

"I try to do different things at every curve. When Sujoy offered me the film and told me the cast, I jumped at it. Working with Jaideep Ahlawat and Vijay Varma has really transformed me.

"It made me believe in different things because they are actors from a different realm. It has added a lot of freshness to me and my character," the 41-year-old told PTI in an interview.

Kareena said her actor-husband Saif Ali Khan asked her to up her game and give her best shot since Ahlawat and Varma are in "top form".

"Saif was like, 'You need to be on your toes because these guys are in top form, they are top actors and they know exactly what they are doing'," she added.

It is a great time for actors who are hungry, said the actor.

"Today, there are brilliant people doing brilliant work. Actors need to be open about that and do different things. It is an amazing time. It is a learning curve for everyone and we should encourage it," she added.

She said she is looking forward to the release of the adaptation of "The Devotion of Suspect X" on Netflix in December or January.

"It is a big challenge for me and it has been a great journey," she said.

–PTI